को रोकने के लिए चौकसी बढ़ाना शामिल है।

Reduction in Baggage Import-Duty

*214. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have further reduced the baggage import duty from 150 per cent to 100 per cent; and

(b) if so, what specific factors contributed to the further reduction in import duty following the earlier reduction from 255 per cent to 150 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of goods imported as passengers' baggage, the Tax Reforms Committee chaired by Prof. Raja J. Chelliah had recommended a rate of duty of 100 per cent ad valorem to be paid in foreign currency subject to some other conditions. It was observed that a number of passengers were already paying duty with foreign exchange. Moreover, making payment of duty in foreign exchange a mandatory requirement could have been interpreted as lack of adequate confidence in Indian currency. It was accordingly decided to prescribe the general effective rate of duty on passengers' baggage at 100% ad valorem without the stipulation of payment of duty in foreign currency. This step is also in accordance with the Government policy to curb smuggling of consumer articles, by reducing the large margin of profit available, with a high baggage duty rate.

Export of cotton by Maharashtra Government

*215. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cotton bales for export for which the Government of Maharashtra has requested permission;

(b) what is the quota for export of cotton bales allotted to the Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) what is the reason for not accepting the request of Maharashtra Government fully.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra from time to time has been requesting for release of export quota of cotton, ranging from 6 lakh bales to 10 lakh bales during the current cotton season. As against this, the Government has so far allocated a quota of 6.20 lakh bales of cotton for export to Maharashtra Federation. Keeping in view the total release of 17.855 lakh bales, and also considering the demands from other State Cooperative Marketing Federations, the Maharashtra Federation has been given a quota of 6.20 lakh bales which is the highest ever so far.

Committee's recommendation on bungling by Nationalised banks

*216. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases pertaining to bungling of money in the nationalised banks are constantly on the increase during the past few years,

(b) if so, what is the number of cases of bungling noticed during the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and the amount likely to be involved per year in such cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Ghosh had submitted its recommendations in this regard to Government; and

(d) if so, when these recommendations were submitted and what action has been taken by Government so far on the basis of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The number of cases of frauds and the amount involved therein as reported to Reserve Bank of India by Nationalised Banks for the year 1990, 1991, 1992 and upto March, 1993 are as follows:—

Year	No. of frauds	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1990	1034	8598.36
		Uganden Shs. 4597787
1991	996	4960.14
1992	1063	13425.38
		F. S. 1500
31st March, 1993	340	1129.00

These figures indicate that the number of fraud cases registered a small decline in 1991 as compared to the number for the year 1990 but again registered an increase in 1992.

(c) and (d) The Committee appointed by RBI under the chairmanship of Shri A. Ghosh to enquire into various aspects of frauds and malpractices submitted its report to RBI on 30-6-92. The report of the Committee was examined and RBI advised the public sector banks in August, 1992 to initiate implementation of most of the recommendations immediately. Some recommendations requiring approval of Government have also been accepted. A few of the recommendations require further examination.

Setting up of Powerloom Service Centres in Karnataka

*217. SHRI J.P. JAVALI:

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the State Government of Karnataka have submitted proposals to the Central Government for setting up of Powerloom Service Centres in Bangalore, Bijapur and Dharwad districts with a view to provide better services and support to the powerloom sector; and

(b) if so, what is the status of proposals and by when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka have submitted proposals for setting up of Powerloom Service Centres in Bijapur and Dharwad Districts. These are awaiting administrative and financial clearance. A Powerloom Service Centre has already been sanctioned and functioning at Bangalore.

Impact of International Environmental Standards on Textiles Export

*218. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the new international environmental standards in the US and the European markets;

(b) if so, what is its likely impact on the exports of the Indian textiles in the international market; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the increasing stress being given by the industrialised countries on environmental standards. It is not possible at this stage to assess the likely impact of this on India's Textile exports. Government are taking necessary steps to educate the industry about the movement in this regard in the industrialised countries.

Submission of Returns by Companies

*219. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI had advised all non-banking financial and residuary non-banking companies to submit their returns